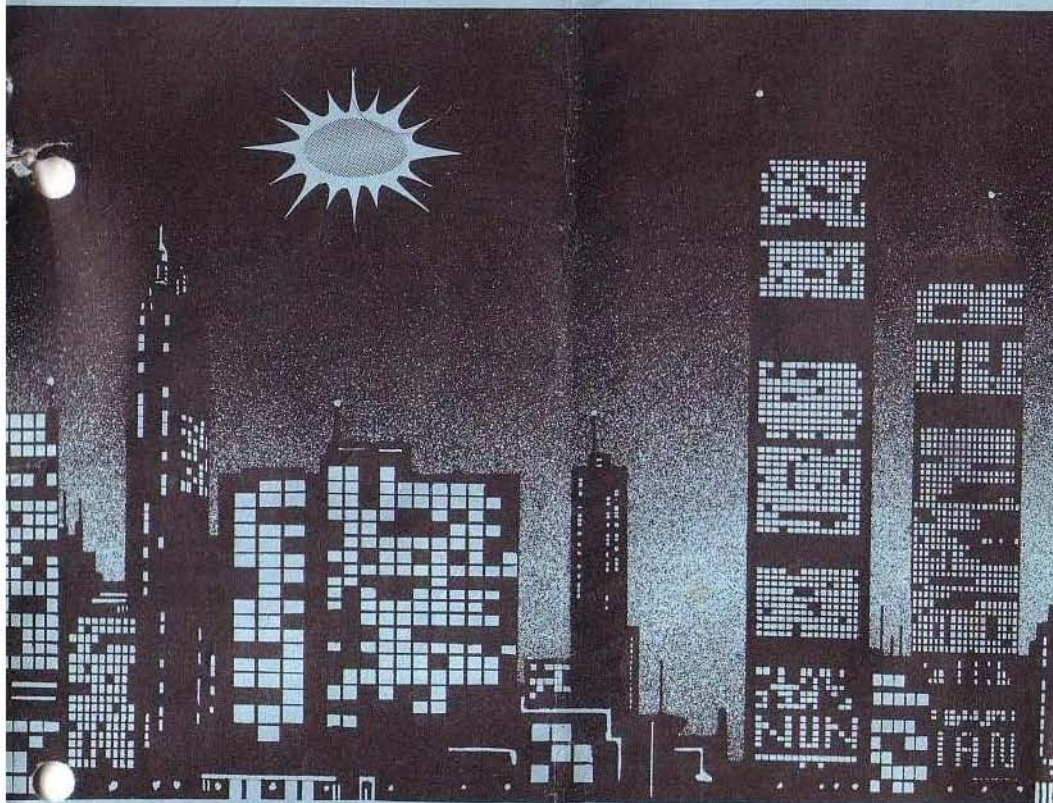


NORTHERN NEWS

UFO



Publication of NUFON ...

UFO RESEARCH NORTH

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Hello there, and welcome to a very important edition in the life of Northern UFO News. It is important for three special reasons.

Firstly, we celebrate our 100th issue, having come a very long way since the first duplicated copies rolled off the press in May 1974. NUFON and Northern UFO News (or NUN as it is affectionately called) have become symbols for the new spirit of cooperation within ufology. It may never have been the biggest, cheapest, most dynamic or most significant publication output... but it has stuck around. Not all that many UFO magazines make it to 100 editions, which is a sad but true fact. And next spring we reach a further milestone with NUFON's tenth birthday. I think we can feel a little proud of what we have done these past years.

In order to mark this occasion we have decided to try to make NUN a better product for you. A new professional style, bi-monthly publication (4 times a year plus Summer and Winter Reports in between) and new features which I hope you will recommend to us. NUN is your magazine and we would like to develop it even further. That relies upon just a small increase in the number of readers - so go out and tell all your members or friends about the new style Northern UFO News. And don't forget that special offer we mentioned last month. Six full issues of this kind is not beyond our financial reach with a little bit of effort, even during 1983.

Finally, with this issue, and as a sign of the new spirit of cooperation already mentioned, we implement the ideas issued in a special bulletin to associate groups last autumn. We have decided to keep the NUFON name - but with the subtitle UFO RESEARCH NORTH. We strongly urge all associate groups to use this communal link; ie MUFORA - UFO RESEARCH NORTH. Not only will it cement our ties as an informal network in the eyes of the public. But it will serve to unite us, in thought and deed, with the groups in central England who became UFO RESEARCH MIDLANDS during 1982.

I do not believe that this asks too much of any NUFON group. Please think about it. Jenny Randles

J.R. COMMENTS

A number of UFO authorities have recently inquired into the somewhat alarming dearth of UFO reports. Just what is - or rather is not - happening?

Total case numbers have steadily declined since 1977, time of the last great British wave. NUFON figures show: 1977 (332); 1978 (273); 1979 (156); 1980 (84); 1981 (68) and 1982 (just 38). A brief mini-wave in November 1980 brought us some good close encounters (including the last CE3), but clearly something seems to be very amiss.

MAGONIA have written much on this topic and one of the places cited for blame by many sources has been the cinema UFO and sci-fi hype, especially our old friend Spielberg with his Close Encounters of The Third Kind (released in late 1977). This is probably part of the answer. The public have been super-saturated with UFO stories to the point where they mentally switch off when the word UFO is mentioned. Yet the media (who supposedly reflect the public interest) have not been switched off. Certainly I have found more and more of my time devoted to handling enquiries from TV, radio and journalists. UFOs, it seems, still fascinate them.

Personally I think a fundamental factor is that we are merely in a trough within the UFO cycle. Since the ten year periods of 1967 and 1977 waves suggest a new UK wave around 1987 we may now be climbing up towards more respectable levels of UFO activity, although it could be a while before we see cases of the calibre and magnitude of those recent but departed days.

Perhaps even more crucial, and probably the single most important reason why we are lacking reports, is the decreased number of investigators. There are now just 3 or 4 active NUFON groups as opposed to a dozen or more quite recently. But I do not regard this as a bad thing, because investigation in this country is more and more concerned with studying in-depth selected cases. The very fact that we are ignoring so many LITS reports is naturally limiting case totals. LITS, after all, do form the biggest percentage of UFOs seen.

For Your Perusal Cont...

on Cattle Mutilations and comment on the alleged causations...Also Nigel Watson covers 'Airships' in his regular UFO column with a light-hearted touch.

THE LEY HUNTER No 94 (£3.75, 3 issues, from: PO Box 13 Welshpool, Powys)
TLH will no doubt become increasingly important to ufologists, in the wake of
its editors (Paul Devereux) book EARTHLIGHTS. This issue reviews the 82 moot;
and his talk on UFOs and earth energies. Plus Andy Collins talk on the para-
sequel to ALIEN CONTACT and the quest for the magical 'Green Stone'.
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BOOKS OF THE MOMENT :

FADE-OUT Sphere 1975 (reissued 1982)
MISSION Sphere 1982 Both by Patrick Tilley



As Earthlights still captures the UFO book limelight it is worth taking a slight sidestep into the works of Patrick Tilley, an Anglo-American author with whom you may not be familiar.

So far as I am aware these are his only two published offerings. Both are novels which deal with the 'paranormal' in a refreshing way. Both have UFO connotations. And both are deserving of your attention.

MISSION, the product of much thought and work, is the one you will currently find riding high in the paperback best-sellers list. However, in my view, it is less successful than his earlier novel. MISSION concerns the sudden appearance at easter-time of a body on a New York mortuary slab which the young doctor concerned believes to bear an uncanny resemblance to one certain Jesus Christ. She calls her boyfriend, a Jewish lawyer, and both are sole witnesses to the miracle of resurrection which transpires. Said Jesus then 'homes in' on these two and they face the unenviable task of deciding what to do without getting locked in a padded cell. They are not helped by the fact that the Messiah is not exactly what one would expect. He is a cosmic being with an interesting 'Mission'.

The text is heavy on the metaphysics, but Patrick Tilley tells me this is meant to be taken very seriously. It crosses into UFO territory more than once and there is some nice humour milked from the situation too.

FADE-OUT, however, is more directly relevant to our subject. Its theme concerns a sudden global electro-magnetic black-out. After tension thanks to each side wondering 'who done it' the culprit turns out to be a giant UFO, which promptly lands and is (you guessed it) covered-up by the US government. The main part of the story concerns the attempts of a scientific team to unlock the secrets of the alien device, and the tension mounts to a superbly enigmatic ending. The book really scores because the phenomenon is shown to be truly alien, not a mere extrapolation of human technology. A tremendous illustration of what might be (or according to some already has been!!)

Patrick tells me that Warner Brothers were to make a movie based on the book but along came Columbia and Spielberg when plans were well advanced. The budget offered to Close Encounters could not be matched so the film was shelved. A pity. FADE-OUT knocks spots off Spielberg's 'pretty lights'. So, even though you can't see the movie you can at least read the book. It is worth your time.

oo



MEDIA MATTERS -

A look at UFOs in the public eye

Spielberg's E-T, as if you didn't know it, is the film of the moment. And it is keeping ufologists on their toes dealing with the predictable media rush to find 'topical' and 'original' stories (most of which end up being neither). The BBC TV review of the movie said something like... 'I wish for once Spielberg would make a film about a real issue of today, not a fantasy'. A few of you might not think much of that!

Several of the nationals have come up with UFO articles to link with E-T. The SUN rang me with the devastating news, 'I've just spoken to Patrick Moore and he says extraterrestrial life is highly probable, but UFOs are not it! What about that - eh!' "Yes," says I "I can't argue with that". A stunned silence was followed by a pained attempt to prove we were not real ufologists. "You've only got a few hundred members, the Aetherius Society have thousands. So they are the true representatives of the subject." My phone went down pretty fast after that! In the end the good old Sun ran a competition... "Do you know someone who looks like ET

Next came the News of the World. I would only talk to them about UAPs and the cases we could explain. "We're going to print that," says they. "Really," says I. "Yes, honest...but what about those aliens?" I refused to comment. On December 5 their story 'ET HAS ALREADY LANDED' featured Lord Clancarty proclaiming that ET and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS are based on real experiences and are part of the alien education programme. Gordon Greighton helped PSR and British ufology no end by telling them all about 'Love with an alien girl' and saying, "they may need some of our genes to revitalise their own stock". (They can have mine any time they care to call...I need a new pair as these are frayed at the edges!)

The only newspaper I would talk to was the Daily Express, who showed to me a fair approach. Their January 4 1983 interview with me 'After ET will there be more UFOs seen?' was considerably better than many I have seen and relatively free of mistakes, although I covered UFO waves, the piezo-electric effect, the high IFO proportion, the lack of photographs of close encounters and witness 'excuses' about alien motives. So well done, Geoff Newson. Mind you if UFO REALITY is based on 20 years research I am still trying to work out what research I was doing at primary school! (For 20 you should read 10!)

Local radio did a number of programmes too, up and down the country. Often the same station covered the subject twice. Both Peter Hough and myself, for example did interviews with RED ROSE RADIO (Lancs). Peter Warrington did both RADIO MANCHESTER and its commercial rivals PICCADILLY. And I did RADIO MERSEYSIDE (twice) and a one-hour phone in with RADIO CITY (Mersey & North Wales) which led to the offer of a weekly or bi-weekly series. (More on that in the next issue). Most of these helped with the PR image for UFOs and brought in some cases. As did the 13 minute spot I was given on Womens Hour (the largest audience radio programme in Britain) This went out on Christmas Eve and has brought a trickle of new cases from all over the UK.

Away from ET-mania the News of the World again (November 28) reported on the 'eccentric inventor' John Searle in 'Revenge of the Flying Saucer Raider'. Searle, the latest thorn in the side of serious ufologists, has been building his space-ships, to media fanfares, for a few years. He runs the 'National Space Research Consortium' (whatever that is) and claims to have launched flying saucers and be years ahead of the super-powers. This time he was caught practically blacking out the whole of southern England by removing components from pylons and cutting up others with a saw! All because the electricity board had fined him for by-passing his meter with sophisticated gadgetry! He is presently undergoing medical appraisal! And you wonder why we have problems.

WELL.I SUPPOSE I ASKED FOR IT: Jenny Randles

On December 17 I did an interview with Radio Merseyside discussing the effect of the movie ET on serious ufology. During this I gave out my address and phone number and here (paraphrased) are a couple of the calls I got lumbered with.

A gentleman from Rainford began to describe his UFO, like a train in the sky, and before long I knew he was talking about the New Years Eve 1978 re-entry of the Russian booster from Cosmos 1068. I told him so.

'Why are you such a sceptic?' says he 'I thought you were there to help. Nobody wants to believe me'

'I do believe you,' I told him. 'You had a very exciting and spectacular sighting of something you will probably never see again. It was real. I'm just telling you what it was.'

<u>February</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rise</u> 52 N	56 N	<u>Set</u> 52 N	56 N
SUN	1	7.24	7.57	16.46	16.31
	7	7.32	7.45	16.57	16.44
	14	7.19	7.30	17.10	17.00
	21	7.05	7.14	17.23	17.15
	28	6.51	6.57	17.36	17.30
	MOON	1	21.38	21.37	9.48
	7	3.43	4.05	11.59	11.37
	14	8.23	8.33	18.41	18.31
	21	10.45	10.25	2.02	2.22
	28	19.08	19.04	7.48	7.54
<u>March</u> SUN	1	6.48	6.54	17.38	17.32
	7	6.35	6.39	17.49	17.45
	14	6.19	6.21	18.01	17.59
	21	6.03	6.03	18.13	18.14
	28	5.47	5.44	18.25	18.28
	MOON	1	20.30	20.32	8.08
	7	2.37	3.02	10.33	10.08
	14	6.47	6.55	17.40	17.33
	21	9.22	8.58	1.10	1.33
	28	18.01	18.00	6.10	6.13

Prominent Planets.... VENUS: Very bright and visible in the SW (Jan), WSW (Feb) and W (Mar); low in the sky and visible for a short time after sunset (Jan) to several hours after sunset (Mar).... MARS: Not prominent, but visible in the SW for two hours after sunset (Jan); low in the SSW and setting early evening (Feb) and for a very short time (around 19.00), low on the W horizon, in early March. After that not at all for some months.... JUPITER is very bright (but not quite as bright as Venus) in the SE and low just before sunrise (Jan) and for several hrs in the SE (Feb) and most of the morning (Mar) - pre dawn. On Mar 6 the moon passes in front of Jupiter (occults it) and so the two objects will be seen in close proximity before and after the event.... SATURN: Visible in the E during early morning (Jan) and SE (Feb) although higher than Jupiter. During (Mar) it rises on the SE horizon at about 21.00 and is visible from then on all night. Early on the morning of Mar 3 the moon passes within 2 degrees (four moon diameters) of the planet and so both objects will be seen in close proximity.

It is hoped that this new regular feature will help you in your search to identify astronomically suspect UFOs. You should be able to extrapolate, to suit your required time and location needs, from the data given. Peter Warrington would like to hear from you on the value of the information, and with any ideas you might have for data that could be added.

SPOT THE INFO.... Test your powers of investigation.

Each issue this spot will feature a case for which a reasonable identification has been found. You will be given the account and the solution will be given (upside down) at the bottom of the next page. So pretend you are the investigator and suggest what the culprit might have been.

We begin with a story told me by a BBC engineer during lunch break on Xmas Eve, whilst recording the 'Womans Hour' radio show.

About 20 years ago a young inexperienced telecommunications operator was sent by the BBC to check on a fault at the Skelton transmitter, which is not far from Penrith in Cumbria. It was quite late at night and the surroundings were very dark, though the sky was clear and it was cool and calm. On arrival at the location the engineer was terrified to discover an arc of vivid blue light which was pulsing in a disjointed rhythm. And from out of the mists of the energy dome came an 'alien' voice, carried across the deserted fields toward him and speaking words he could not understand.

What was it?

(See foot of page)

[illegible]

Some current investigations

The witness (DL) is married with two children and aged 39 at the time of incident. He is employed as a lorry driver. About 6 months before these events he was troubled by a voice inside his head calling his name. He saw his GP and went for a short course of treatment, but voluntarily stopped this before the incident as he felt it was doing no good. (The voices continued).

On Feb 15 he had had several drinks in a pub, then returned to a friends house for more drinks. He was finally driven home by the father of his friend. After being dropped off outside his home (a 13 storey block of flats) he first went inside, then for a reason he cannot explain returned outside again.

In an open space beside the building he claims to have seen a light (like the moon) shining on the ground and upon looking up saw a dark oval shape, the apparent size of a dinner plate at arms length, silhouetted against the sky. At this point he claims to have become engulfed in a 'light-tube' which surrounded him and left him unable to move. He felt numb but calm and warm, and could smell what seemed to be strong burning matches (sulphurous?). He now saw three figures emerge from the light at ground level. One approached and signalled to the others, with a gesture, to stay back. They were human-like 1.7 m in height, average build, wearing a one-piece suit of dark metallic silver. The face was covered by a brown visor which had a round attachment (but no tubing). Under each shoulder was a bulge. The hands were covered by a material that was darker than the remainder of the suit.



The 'alien' spoke in a voice 'like mimed foreign tongues' but after a while he could understand and they communicated 'in the mind'. It gave him a message to pass on...VIZ "This was our planet before you, and we will not allow you to destroy it. If you try we will send a warning and will shudder the earth. Only the innocent will survive"

The figure vanished, leaving DL weak and dizzy. He returned home and called the police. They told Stephen Burnett they believed the witness to be drunk. The witness himself terminated the investigation, but the conclusion seems self evident.

SPOT THE IFO (Answer) (Please turn upside down):

Brief Cases Cont...

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 YOU'LL NEVER Drive ALONE Low Definition Possible earthlights
 Case 8086: September 1980 Dusk Clatterbridge, Wirral Inv: Jenny Randles

This case is probably of most interest because of the name of the primary witness, Gerry Marsden. Gerry, for those of you not aging hippies, is lead singer with the group 'Gerry and the Pacemakers', a leading light in sixties music with such songs as 'You'll never walk alone' and 'Ferry 'cross the Mersey'. Gerry is still singing and reported this sighting to me after hearing a radio interview. At the time he was driving along the M53 motorway with his daughter and two friends when they saw a very bright white light in the SE. Being a keen amateur astronomer (and a UFO enthusiast too it seems) he turned off the motorway and stopped when unable to identify the light. It then proceeded to move in a very odd way, in a zig-zag pattern that formed a wide triangle in the sky. The moves were very abrupt. The car being stopped they listened for sound but heard nothing. Then the object shot across the sky at a fantastic rate and vanished over the horizon. 'It definitely moved and did not just go out' Gerry told me. The case is in fact remarkably like the one described by police officer Norman Collinson (see NUN & FSR and in the forthcoming 'The Pennine UFO Mystery'). The behaviour is in keeping with an earthlight, although I am aware of no fault-line in the area. But quartz-bearing rock is indigenous. When I discussed the theory with Gerry he was impressed by it and added wryly... 'Thank goodness for that. I've spent two years worried that they were going to come back for me!'

+++++
 LEFT UP IN THE AIR Alleged aerial encounter Insufficient Data
 Case 8169: July 12 1981 02.30 Point of Ayr, Gt Wyr Inv: Jenny Randles

On the day that the June 1982 Dan-Air case made the news (see full report later in this issue) I was called by a man who told me that he worked for Dan-Air at Liverpool Airport but refused to give his name because it was policy for air crew not to make UFO reports public. He gave information about an incident at the above date and location, involving a Dan-Air cargo plane coming in to land and crossing the Deeside coast at this point (very close in fact to Oakenholt - scene of the Sunderland family encounters in ALIEN CONTACT). Apparently the object seen was like a pulsing ball of white light over the coast. It was reported to Liverpool ATC over the radio and to ground crew on landing. But no official report was logged. Investigation at Liverpool Airport has failed to discover more information, but as the call was made to me when it seems only Dan-Air staff knew of the 1982 case there is no reason to suspect a media inspired hoax. The location is just across the DEE from the site of the above incident.

+++++
 THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF RAT MAN... Alleged Close Encounter of the 3rd Kind
 Case 8235: July 22 1982 23.00 on Wigan, Gtr Manchester Inv: DIGAP

This was a hot night and three women, whose husbands were working night shift, decided to sit on the pavement in some chairs chatting away. Opposite them were some flats and to their right a line of garages and beyond that a piece of waste land. After about 2 hours outside chatting Mrs M noticed a bright star over the flats (West). As the 22nd became the 23rd the star began to move to the North and elongated. It took on the appearance of a spinning top and became reddish. At 00.15 it curved away over Winter Hill. At 02.00 the Jack Russell dog that was with them began to whine and darted off into the house. At that point the 3 women heard a noise that Mrs M says 'We never want to hear again in all our lives'. It was like a sucking, croaking and was repeated four times. Suddenly, with a huge sucking sound this terrifying figure appeared on the waste land. After seeing it for a few seconds they all screamed and fled inside. It was normal height and wearing a one-piece suit with a



Brief Cases cont...

Goldfish bowl on the head. There was a glass visor, a ridged tube like an elephant trunk and a box on the chest into which this led. Around the face-end of the tube were lumps. The right arm was held stiffly and the other held the box (as shown). Mrs M woke her son who lived opposite. He tried to film the area with his camera but the flash failed to work (even when new batteries were put in). The figure was not seen again after the first brief encounter. The police were called and arrived laughing, at 02.35, but soon changed when they saw the fear of the women. A women PC searched the area, found nothing (although the dog reacted adversely by the garages) and left at dawn. Since then the women have seen assorted LITS in the area (only one of which is worth mentioning - see later in this issue). They also checked fire, police & council offices but could not find a suit like the one worn. A neighbour suggested that they might have seen a workman spraying rat poison but the council said they would not do so at that time.

The suit is in fact very like those worn by rat-men. It has to be so to avoid the toxicity. The sucking noise occurs too, to transfer the poison from the chest box up the tube. One suggestion that may be worthy of note is this. A local off-duty rat man, fed up of the women chattering away until 2am may have donned his suit and gone out intent on scaring them off. And who could blame him!

Investigation by Arthur Tomlinson and Steve Balon.

UFO HAUNTS FORMER STEELWORKS CE 1 (EM effects) Electrical Phenomenon?
Case: 8238 September 3 1982 02.00 Corby, Northants Inv: Raymond Shaw

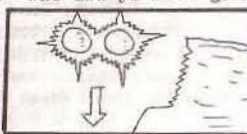
Mr & Mrs B live by the site of the old steel works. Both were awakened on the night in question along with their 13 year old son Wayne. Their other children slept right through. What awoke them was a brilliant blue flash of light that lit the sky. It lasted two seconds and seemed to be emitted by an object that moved



from beside them to the west, northwards, to hover over a line of pylons from the former steel site. Every 30 mins or so a further bright flash occurred and during one of these the house lights went out for about 3 seconds. After TWO HOURS (!) the object faded ('like a searchlight'), although Mrs B said it became more cigar shaped as it vanished. Mr B's digital watch failed to operate during this period, but began to function again when the object disappeared. The object itself was silvery and round, the size of a twopenny at arms length. It was surrounded by white lights that emitted beams. A very loud humming noise (like an electricity sub-station) was present all the time the object was. The local electricity board speculated to the investigator about the possibility of corona discharge, but had no record of voltage fluctuations to account for the loss of light. Neither the police nor media had any other reports of this long duration event, which seems most odd in a residential area.

ANOTHER FAULT-LINE UFO.... Medium Definition Possible earthlights
Case 8239: September 26 1982 19.50 Ilkley, West Yorks Inv: Nigel Mortimer

Three nurses travelling to work noticed a bright glare above the local landmark 'Cow and Calf Rocks'. This was to the south of their path. Two of them saw the object as stationary for a few seconds, the other says it was always moving. But when it did begin to descend this was at a fairly rapid rate (much faster than a star for example). After about one minute it was swallowed out of sight behind the big outcrop of rock (which is an active fault zone). The apparent size of the object was like that of a football and it took the shape of two circular balls side by side. The descent was vertical and no sound was heard, although they were inside a car all the time. The glow was sufficient to illuminate the landscape around.



Readers Notes on above cases:...

THE NIGHT OF FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH....UNLUCKY FOR SOME!

Multi-witness Close Encounter. Investigation by MUFORA & DIGAP (Peter Hough)

Date: August 13 1982 Abram, Nr Wigan, Greater Manchester

On August 14 1982 the Lancashire Evening Post carried a brief news item 'Close Encounters of Three Kinds', referring to the multiple sightings the previous night that constituted an interesting series of events above the Lancashire coalfields. DIGAP (care of Arthur Tomlinson) visited the witnesses to gain an initial understanding and then joined forces with MUFORA, for whom Peter Hough conducted a full scale investigation whilst DIGAP chased up some other independent witnesses. Finally, on October 21, Jenny Randles returned with Peter Hough for several hours of re-interviews with the primary witnesses and on-site examinations of the various locales involved with the case. The final result is one of the most interesting cases of 1982.

The principle events took place around the town of Abram; although peripheral and directly related incidents occurred in other locations - as indicated in the adjacent map. The area around Wigan and Leigh, whilst now in the new county of Greater Manchester is in fact the heart of the South Lancashire coalfield. Many of the old pits are disused (although their concealed shafts and landscape slagheaps remain very visible) and other pits remain open, such as Bickershawe Colliery, which forms an integral part of this story. This excursion into the local geography could prove rather important to an understanding of the complex events of this evening. Especially as any glance at UFO records, or more particularly the files of local newspapers such as the Bolton Evening News, will show just how extraordinarily rich the Bolton-Wigan-Leigh 'triangle' has been for decades in providing UFO tales. It is an intriguing fact that the area has never been promoted as a 'window', like Warminster has, although it in truth has more factual claim for such a description.

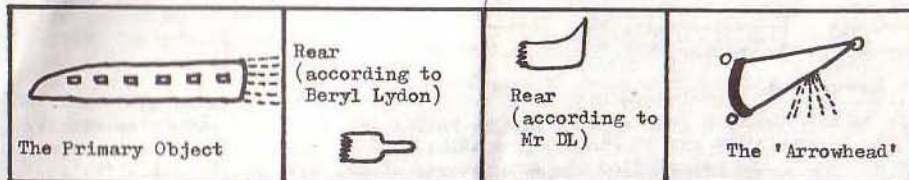


The Lydon Family: Mr Brian Lydon (aged 45) and his wife Beryl, are the two most important principles in this case. Mr Lydon is a furniture salesman, but he spent several years as a mining surveyor with the National Coal Board and his extensive knowledge of the local geology and mining operations proved of great value; although these matters only emerged towards the end of the investigation, when raised by the investigators. It must be said that Brian Lydon himself saw no apparent connection between his background, the local geology and the UFOs.

The Lydons live in a corner semi-detached house in an estate at Abram. Their garden faces south (towards Warrington) and contains a large aerial to accommodate Brian's hobby of CB radio communication. Adjacent to the house is a large open playing fields which affords good views to the north towards Winter Hill (an outcrop of the Pennines north of Bolton with a TV mast visible from much of the north-west) and to the east towards Leigh and Manchester. At the far end of the field (about three-quarters-of-a-mile away) are the bright floodlights of the Bickershawe pit on the edge of Leigh.

At between 21.30 and 21.45 (precise time unknown) Mrs Lydon saw something odd through the large lounge window that looks south. It was prominent enough to disturb her from watching TV. She called to her husband (who was in another part of the house) and they went into their rear garden to watch more closely as a most unusual object moved across slowly from a position in the south-west towards the east. Both agree that it was a large cigar shape, greyish in colour, and with a line of square 'portholes' along the length issuing bright light. At the rear came a bright orange/red glow that seemed to leave a trail in the sky. Mrs Lydon thinks that the rear of the object was 'teat' shaped. Brian Lydon recalls no such distinguishing feature. After a few moments of observation they decided to move onto the playing fields for a better view.

The night of Friday the Thirteenth cont...

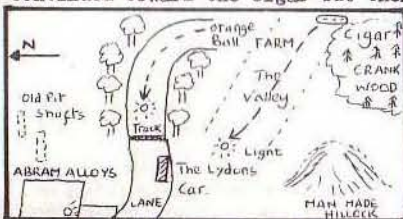


On arrival at the field the Lydon's saw that a neighbour, Mr S, and his nephew, were already out there watching the object. Suddenly the attention of all four witnesses was distracted to the floodlights of the colliery across the field. Here two small lights were apparently circling the floodlights. Then, from the Winter Hill direction came a fourth object, moving very fast and seeming to streak along almost at ground level. This was very unusual in shape, being like an arrowhead or ice-cream cone. It was greyish, but had two orange lights at the rear, a white light on the nose and a white light spreading out a fan shaped ray on the underside.

Turning back from the diversive activity over the Colliery they looked again at the cigar object round to the south. The glow from the rear had ceased and the porthole lights were going dimmer and brighter (according to Brian Lydon it was as if something were passing in front of them obscuring light, but nothing was positively visible). It was at this point (it seems about 22.00 - ie 15/20 mins into the sighting) that the Lydons decided to drive to a location they knew nearby which should place them nearer to the cigar like object. They left the other witnesses still on the field, but not before all had observed the two lights and the arrowhead set off from the Colliery heading towards the cigar. The arrowhead put on a sudden burst of speed and reached the primary object first and then disappeared either into or behind the cigar. Whatever the case, none of the witnesses saw it again... although the other lights (or what was assumed to be them) were seen.

The drive lasted five minutes, during which they lost the objects in streetlight glare on the main road. They then turned off onto Park Lane, which heads east to a location known as the Valley adjacent to Crank Wood. Here there is open land with the only building an Alloy Factory of quite small scale to their left (north) and a landscaped hillock to their right (south). The lane peters out and continues directly ahead of the point at which they stopped (beneath the welcoming 'safe haven' of the security light on the side of the factory building). Ahead (east) the track (as it then is) leads into the woods and to farms.

At this point (by Abram Alloys) the cigar was visible over Crank Wood moving very slowly north-east. The two lights were directly ahead over the track. One seemed to remain stationary (although some way back in the sky). The other at first continued toward the cigar but then changed course and began to head along The Valley in the direction of the Lydons car. Meanwhile the cigar was moving out of sight behind the trees of the woods, but Beryl, who was watching this more closely, says it moved 'end-on' away from them in a curious 'step' fashion, alternately in a horizontal, then vertical, plane. Meanwhile the light coming along The Valley was increasing speed towards them and Brian decided it was time to leave. As he readied the car his wife continued to



watch the light, but Brian was distracted by what looked like two car headlights coming down the track out of the woods directly at them. He says he felt that the two phenomena were attempting to hem them in and so he immediately put the car into reverse, and turned in the concrete apron of Abram Alloys beneath the lights. Moving back onto Park Lane he glanced to his left and saw one single ball of orange light where the 'headlights' had been, just a couple of hundred yards away heading towards them down the track. He turned the car right and shot off back to civilisation, seeing the orange ball once more in his mirror. Nothing else was seen and they reached home at about 22.25.

Soon after they reached home (and without mentioning their experiences) the Lydon's ten year old son, Michael, came in and told how at around 22.00 he and his friends had been playing by the canal banks when they had seen lights and sparks coming out of Crank Wood.

Other Encounters: Interviews with Mr S and his nephew supported the Lydon's story; as did the fact that a neighbour of theirs (Mr DL) had quite independantly seen the cigar-object for 10 minutes, around 22.00, from his landing window (which looks out east). His description was extremely similar, but for the tail 'fin'.

It was also found that two of the women involved in the July 'Rat-Man' case (see earlier this issue) had from Wigan seen at 21.50 a bright object with a circle of white lights (Like 'chandelier droppers') hovering for a short while above the garden and then heading towards Winter Hill. Similarly a Mr & Mrs P returning from Bingo, at Bryn, saw two round silver lights and a silver cigar heading in a triangle formation towards Winter Hill around this same time.

Evidently something was over this area on Friday the thirteenth.

Effects: Brian Lydon alleges that the next time he came to use his car (Sunday) he found the lights would not work. On checking he found two blown fuses and charred wiring. Beryl thinks she recalls smelling the burning at that point (which would suggest that the burn-out occurred on the Sunday). But Brian thinks it was directly linked with the close approach of the object and says he recalls his indicator light failing to work as he turned off Park Lane to head back home on the Friday.

The woman at Bryn, who is also a CB operator, described a story which Brian Lydon related too. It seems that a group of CB operators up on Winter Hill around midnight Friday/Saturday 13th/14th also saw the cigar shaped object and watched it land in a quarry. The police arrived (having heard the CB reports) and cleared the radio operators off the hilltops. In the early hours of the morning, however, they saw the object depart southwards and CB operators on Frodsham Hill (south of Warrington), and in the Derbyshire Pennines, saw it too. The police have not confirmed this story (which Brian Lydon says is because they should not have had CB radios whilst on patrol) and the operators concerned have not been traced. The woman at Bryn also says that her CB 'rig' emitted a terrific 'screeching' noise whilst the UFO was 'on the air', and other local CB users claimed to have heard this too.

Conclusions: This is a complicated case, of which we can only scratch the surface here. It should perhaps come as no surprise, for example, to learn that Brian Lydon has so many other paranormal encounters to relate that another article this length could be filled. Many of these involve ghosts seen at the massive former US Airfield at Burtonwood, near Warrington (where Brian renovates old aircraft for a museum). Others include precognitive dreams. The physical effects may or may not be relevant. And it must be said that Brian has had a tendency since, to view dozens of 'UFOs' (several in the presence of Peter Hough - all of which were aircraft!) He has also come up with weird theories, involving 'regenerating humanoids' and UFOs drawing power from a nearby reservoir. However, the investigators are quite satisfied that the original report does describe something unusual.

The geology of the area shows many fault-lines close to the surface, including the major Pennington Fault (along which a recent earthquake occurred). The area by Abram Alloys is virtually on top of one such fault. In passing Brian Lydon mentioned "recently we dug up a surprisingly rich vein of quartz", when talking about the local geology. In view of the connection between quartz and the piezo-electric effect (which might well explain this extraordinary lightshow) Brian was asked why he mentioned this. "I think they come here after quartz," was his reply!

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AIRBORNE INCIDENT OVER ITALY

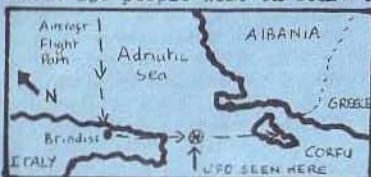
Aerial encounter: Investigated for BUFORA by Peter Warrington & Philip Taylor

On route from Gatwick to Corfu two crew and two passengers on board a British Dan-Air Boeing 737 jet briefly observed something in the skies near Brindisi, southern Italy. The event occurred on June 21st 1982 and was featured in the national press in forms varying from factual accounts to suggestions that the sighting was an omen of the birth of the royal baby!

Airborne encounter over Italy cont...

Since June 22 (when Peter Warrington first spoke to the pilot) he and Philip Taylor have continued to investigate the events through relevant sources. This repeats the successful partnership which explained the July 1976 radar/visual involving a British Airways Trident over Portugal. Philip Taylor had shown the visual object to be an experimental balloon, and Peter the radar as ground images, at least to a satisfactory degree of probability.

The Dan-Air Encounter: The 737 was on a holiday flight carrying mostly tourists. About 130 people were on board of which only 4 are known to have seen the object.



The aircraft had left the Brindisi beacon (see map) and was heading along Upper Amber 14 on a bearing of 125 degrees Mag. for a landing at Kerkyra on Corfu. They were descending from 27,000 to 19,000 ft and at 45 nautical miles SE of the Beacon passing through 23,000 ft. Pilot Captain Schwaiger drew the attention of co-pilot David Robinson to an object at their 11 o'clock position. At first this was below them, but drew level as they descended slightly. The object appeared to be stationary and to maintain its height. The aircraft passed to its right and the object was lost to view from the flightdeck at the 8 o'clock position. By this time it was slightly above the aircraft's height. The time was 11.15 GMT and the incident lasted between 30 and 60 seconds.

In angular size the object was about half that of the moon and from this both crewmen gained the impression that it was close by them (within 2 miles). Capt. Schwaiger says his first thought was that it was an aircraft tyre falling to the ground, it being 'doughnut' shaped with a slight depression on the top surface. When he saw the object was not falling he rejected his idea. David Robinson thinks the lower surface was like an upturned saucer and the upper one rectangular. The two passengers (on a visit to the flightdeck) favour a rectangular shape. All four witnesses agree on a black, shiny colouration. No appendages were seen, although the co-pilot reported a bright spot on the upper surface which the media termed a window, despite David Robinson actually thinking it was probably a sun reflection.

There is no radar coverage for this part of their flight and partly due to this (but mostly because of language problems) the incident was not reported to air traffic control in Corfu, but only on return to England. The passengers by that time were, of course, left behind in Corfu to enjoy their holiday and leave the Dan-Air officers to the media onslaught!

Investigation: By virtue of the fact that investigators who knew what they were doing chased up this case immediately, we were able to gain accurate and valuable information about the aircraft's position, speed, and other characteristics. It was at position N 40 36.6; E 18 00.2, travelling at 280 knots (is an 'over the ground speed of some 350-360'). Descent rate was approximately 1500 ft per minute.

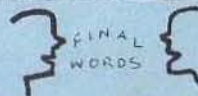
Weather conditions were found as follows. It was clear and sunny. Temperature outside at that height was approximately minus 20°C. The wind was approximately 280° at 40 knots.

The most probable candidate for explanation has always been a balloon. Brindisi does release weather balloons at 05.00 and 11.00 GMT which must be considered. However, in the prevailing conditions the 05.00 balloon would normally have been either carried well beyond the aircraft's location or have descended by 11.15. And problems occur for the 11.00 balloon too. To reach 45 miles SE was possible, given the wind direction, but would have taken about an hour - which is too long. Even had the balloon unaccountably been launched improbably early, in an hour it should have reached 60,000 ft plus. So this seems to be untenable. Attempts to discover whether other kinds of balloon might have been present are still in progress.

On the day in question a NATO naval/aerial exercise ('Deterrent Force') was in operation. Since the incident occurred close to the border of Italian & Greek air space it is possible that something from either country involved in the exercise may be the culprit (eg a target drone). Efforts to ascertain this are underway.

The case should not be seen out of perspective. At present we cannot explain it but we have a good opportunity of doing so and the probability of it being explicable does at this time appear to be high.

FINAL WORDS



The December issue of SHE magazine had an interesting article (SHE, HE & ET) which featured an interview with Steven Spielberg. To get hold of him reporter Marianne Gray bribed the man by buying him a UFO sweat-shirt (see opposite) in which some of you might just be interested. It's an original design by Paul Yates and contains light emitting diodes connected to a concealed 9 volt battery so the UFOs light up! As it shows discs over Stonehenge Paul Yates is clearly au-fait with the latest research ideas. I wonder what commission Paul Dev-ereux is getting! The sweatshirt is quite washable and costs £19 and you can get it mail order from 101 Olive Road London NW2 6UR. Or from his stall at the Covent Garden market in London (Wed, Thurs in the Apple Market & Saturdays in the Jubilee Market).



In the interview Spielberg said about UFO entities... 'For me they exist. They are exciting and interesting and I believe that we blame 'the spirits' for our own possible subconscious.' Apparently he 'lost his innocence with an ET creature in a Holiday Inn, aged 17, and at 24 had his first encounter with a poltergeist in a haunted Texas hotel. He even had a car-stop experience! A busy lad - eh.

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PLEASE NOTE: Subscription is £4.20 for all 1983 issues (six editions due). Cheques etc should be made payable to NUFON or Northern UFO Network and not c/o Jenny Randles.... Thank You. Sid... £3 will cover your 1983 sub.

NEXT ISSUE.... Lots of exciting things, including (hopefully) a review of the Anglo/French UFO/OVNI conference. Plus a detailed report on 'The Case of the Silent Vulcan'... a multi-witness & movie-film encounter from the East Midlands.

CALENDAR... Sat February 5 7pm BUFORA lecture Kensington Library
'To Ride Pegasus' Richard Beet (SIGAP)
Sat/Sun February 19/20 UFO/OVNI Anglo-French conference
in Boulogne
Sat March 5 7pm BUFORA lecture Kensington Library
'Hypnotic Regression - Where now?' Harry Harris (NUFORA)

August 27, 28 & 29 International Congress Lane End, nr High Wycombe
(including Hynek, Friedman, Rutledge & many others) (Bookings from
BUFORA commencing the beginning of April)

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